

our attention overseas, it is essential to remember the ongoing battle that many of our young citizens face each day here at home. Our youth are the future of this Nation and must be protected. We not only value the young people of this country, but recognize that they are capable individuals and can take an active role in creating a healthier living situation.

I come to the Senate floor today to talk about a tremendous initiative between the public and private sector that has been reaching out to youth for 20 years: Project Safe Place. I am pleased that the Senate unanimously adopted S. Res. 70, a resolution introduced by Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN and myself to designate the week of March 16, 2003, as National Safe Place Week, in recognition of this partnership.

Over the past 20 years, Project Safe Place has acted as an outreach effort of the YMCA Center for Youth Alternatives—a short-term shelter for youth at risk. Nearly 64,000 young people have received help at over 12,200 designated Safe Place locations. Young people can easily recognize a safe place under a well-known symbol of safety for in-crisis youth. The success of the program, beginning in Louisville, KY, has prompted the implementation of this youth shelter outreach program in over 100 cities throughout the United States. Even though the program has already been established in 41 States across the country, there are still too many communities that don't know about this valuable youth resource.

Safe Place is a nationally acclaimed program that is easily implemented in communities across the country. This program unites the business sector, volunteers, and youth service agencies in a community to provide temporary safe havens for youth in crisis. I urge all my colleagues: if your State does not already have a Safe Place organization, please consider facilitating this worthwhile resource so that young people who are abused, neglected, or whose futures are jeopardized by physical or emotional trauma will have access to immediate help and safety in their community.

National Safe Place Week celebrates that outstanding program and honors the efforts of thousands of dedicated Safe Place volunteers who selflessly devote time and resources to protect our Nation's young people. I hope this commemoration helps to raise awareness of the number of troubled young people in our Nation and provides more youth and their families with the knowledge that help is often right in their own neighborhood.●

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY SHANNON

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, a precious friend of mine and of progressive causes passed away earlier this week. Dorothy Shannon died early on the morning of Wednesday, March 19, 2003. She was 85.

Dorothy was one of the dearest friends anyone could have. She was a fiercely loyal Democrat who was a long-time, prominent fixture in the Wisconsin political scene when I first ran for public office over 20 years ago. As it was to so many candidates, Dorothy's support, and that of her husband Ted, was crucial to me in that first campaign, and they have been staunch supporters and advisors ever since.

Growing up in a union household in Toledo, OH, during the Great Depression, Dorothy's activism came naturally to her. She came out of the Roosevelt Democratic tradition, and it stayed with her. She would remind me to "be a Democrat, like Franklin Delano Roosevelt."

After her serving in the Navy during World War II, she earned her masters in early childhood education at Yale, where she met and married Ted. They moved to Madison in 1950 and had lived there ever since.

As Dorothy told national columnist John Nichols, it did not take her and Ted long to get involved in Democratic politics. She recalled how one day, when they were living in university housing, a young fellow named Bill Proxmire knocked on their door, and asked them to sign up to join the Wisconsin Democratic Party. Ted and Dorothy joined Bill Proxmire and a few other hardy souls, that included such future notables as Carl Thompson, Jim and Ruth Doyle, and Gaylord Nelson. They formed the core of what was to become the modern Wisconsin Democratic Party. Ted and Dorothy helped put Bill Proxmire and Gaylord Nelson in the U.S. Senate, as they helped me over three decades later.

Long before I ran for the U.S. Senate, though, Ted and Dorothy helped me win in my first race, for the Wisconsin State Senate, and they were at every event I ever had for the next 20 years. No matter what the weather, no matter what their health was, they were always there, always encouraging me.

Dorothy's commitment to progressive causes inspired many, and in the early 1980s, Democrats in Dane County made her their cochair, along with a friend of hers, Jim and Ruth Doyle's son. This past January, 20 years later, Dorothy attended the inauguration of the DoYLES' son, Jim Doyle, as Governor of Wisconsin.

As was noted in her obituary, Dorothy chaired the Mondale-Ferraro Presidential campaign in Dane County, and she was credited with helping to organize the largest public rally in support of the Democratic ticket that year.

I was at that rally. I remember it well. Everyone who was there will remember it for the rest of their lives. It was a remarkable outpouring of energy, idealism, and hope for the future, and as such it was the perfect embodiment of Dorothy's qualities.

John Nichols reported that last August, at an antiwar rally and march in Madison, Dorothy was seated in the

middle of the crowd. He noted that "when the crowd prepared to parade off to Vilas Park, several folks said goodbye to the white-haired activist. 'Goodbye?' asked Shannon. 'Oh, no, I'm ready to march.'" As Nichols wrote, "Dorothy Shannon was always ready to march. And rally. And campaign."

No matter what the progressive cause or issue, Dorothy was there. She was steadfast in her commitment, and it extended well beyond party politics. She served on the Middleton Plan Commission, and was active in the League of Women Voters, the University League, and Friends of Pheasant Branch.

It is still hard for me to fully grasp Dorothy's passing. I have known Ted and Dorothy Shannon for half of my life. And that is how we all thought of them. Ted and Dorothy. We always said their two names as one word. If you wanted to mention just one of them, it took a little effort. It slowed up the conversation.

Now, Dorothy is gone, and conversations will be slowed all around Wisconsin.

I offer my deepest condolences to Ted and his family. I will always remember Dorothy, my dear friend, and cherished supporter.●

UVM CENTER MATT SHEFTIC CENTERS HIS PRIORITIES ON HIS FAMILY

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a young Vermonter whose priorities are in the right place. Matt Sheftic is the center for the University of Vermont basketball team, the first Catamounts team to reach the NCAA tournament.

Before choosing to play basketball for Coach Tom Brennan, Matt was a standout for the Essex Junction Hornets, leading them to the 1998 Vermont State Championship. He was a first team all-state selection twice, and in 1999 was named Vermont's Mr. Basketball by the Burlington Free Press, and was Vermont's Gatorade Player of the Year. At UVM, he also serves his country as a member of the U.S. Army ROTC program.

Aside from his successes on the basketball court, in the classroom, and in the ROTC program, Matt is first and foremost dedicated to his family. When his sister Lauren battled an unexpected serious illness, Matt left the basketball team to help care for her. His priorities speak volumes about him as an outstanding young man, about the closeness of the Sheftic family, and about the wonderful job his parents have done raising him.

Matt Sheftic's story is told in an article by Joe Burris in the March 20 edition of the Boston Globe. Today, in honor of Matt Sheftic and his family, and in memory of Lauren Sheftic, I ask that the article "For Vermont's Sheftic, family came first" be printed into the RECORD.

The article follows:

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Boston Globe, Mar. 20, 2003]

COMEBACK PLAYER; FOR VERMONT'S SHEFTIC, FAMILY CAME FIRST

(By Joe Burris)

BURLINGTON, VT.—Big men get nervous, too. Vermont center Matt Sheftic—a 22-year-old junior with Jack Sikma's shooting touch and Paul Bunyan's body—stood on the sideline moments before the Catamounts' America East final against Boston University, pondering how he would play in the biggest game of his career. Worry set in; Sheftic's melon-sized calves trembled.

But he knew it wasn't too late to dial heaven. As he often does during the national anthem, Sheftic called upon his sister Lauren—who died in 2001 at age 18 from a brain aneurysm after a courageous struggle that lasted nearly a year—and asked if she would loan him "the strength she showed" for the next two hours.

Sheftic missed his first shot, with 18:04 left. With 17:25 left, he turned the ball over. In fact, he didn't score until the 11:01 mark of the first half, on his second shot of the game. By then Vermont had raced out to a double-digit lead and Sheftic began to settle; legs that once trembled became sturdy enough to help carry his team.

With 8:33 left, he scored on an up-and-under post move. BU left him open at the top of the key with 5:43 left and he capitalized with a basket. He scored two more soft-stroke baskets to finish the first half with 10 points on 5-for-10 shooting.

Over the last 9:41, when BU rallied and subsequently forged ahead, Sheftic was the Catamounts' go-to guy, scoring 8 points. His poise helped keep Vermont close in a contest at a time when the partisan BU crowd was loudest.

"After I hit a couple shots, I really settled down and I started to get my confidence, and all of my nervousness in my legs just left," said Sheftic.

Vermont's David Hehn won it for the Catamounts with a fadeaway baseline basket with 5.6 seconds left, but Sheftic was named most outstanding player, scoring 23 points on 10-for-17 shooting and adding 6 boards to lead UVM to its first NCAA Tournament bid. The Catamounts are the 16th seed in the West and will meet top-seeded Arizona in Salt Lake City today.

"I was just thinking that she was with me at the [high school] state championship game, and just how awesome it would have been for her to be there for [last Saturday's] game," said Sheftic about Lauren, who was three years younger. "But I knew she was watching anyway, and I really felt like she was there with me."

For Sheftic, his involvement with Vermont basketball this season is a far cry from last season. He enters today's Arizona game as the team's second-leading scorer (10.8 points per game) and rebounder (6.4 rebounds) and is third with 54 assists. The Essex Junction, Vt., resident who chose to stay home rather than accept lures from big-name programs such as Providence and Southern California has led UVM in scoring in five games and in rebounding in six. Moreover, the 6-foot-8-inch, 260-pound widebody has been a team leader. He has helped to alleviate pressure from other players—including sophomore Taylor Coppenrath, the America East Player of the Year.

"We had a situation where when somebody said something about Taylor, that he wasn't that good, Sheftic became his big brother and his protector," said coach Tom Brennan. "It was really a neat thing to watch."

"I don't know if I've consciously taken it upon myself to be a leader," said Sheftic. "I try to help out the team wherever I can."

Last season, Sheftic didn't play at all.

Lauren took ill during winter 2000. Sheftic, the oldest of five children and the only male, endured the 2000-01 season, but during the fall of last year, weeks before the start of the season, he decided to take a redshirt to spend more time with his ailing sister.

"It was really an unbelievable time for me," said Sheftic. "Thinking back on it now, it was like a dream, a nightmare. My sister ended up with a brain aneurysm and was really sick, and we had a really tough season the previous year, when we finished 12-17. I'm a business major, and my classes are really tough."

"Making a decision to leave the team, it just became too much for me. I just felt totally overloaded. I felt like I was drowning, like I couldn't get up to the surface to breathe with my school work, going back and forth to the hospital, trying to help my family out, trying to be there for my parents."

"You just didn't know what was going to happen. Phone calls from my mother would range from, 'Lauren's making great progress today,' to 'We took 10 steps back today, she's sick again.' It was an emotional roller coaster I was on, as well as the season, just trying to get up for games, when I felt like all my emotions were with my sister."

Sheftic went to Brennan's office and relayed his desire to sit out the season. "He was looking across at me and saying, 'T.B., I just can't do it,'" said Brennan. "They were very, very close, and it really ripped his heart out. He told me, 'I really need to spend time with her. Basketball doesn't mean as much to me.'"

During his sister's battle, he battled his own sense of grief while helping his three youngest sisters cope. Then, he said, his sister suffered her biggest setback.

"She went in to get a routine shunt in her head, which is a procedure where they drain pressure in her head," Sheftic said. "And when they went to drill into her head, they hit her brain with the drill, and it caused another brain aneurysm. So almost a year later, we were in the exact same spot."

"We had to make a decision. My mom had spent every single day of her recovery with Lauren. And one day [before the surgery], Lauren told her that if anything like this happened again she didn't want to do it again, because it was so painful for her and such a long road." Sheftic was at his sister's bedside when she died shortly after the surgery.

"I think my family has become so much more important to me," said Sheftic. "Family is always important, but I don't know: You sometimes start to take your family for granted. They'd be at my basketball games and I loved the support, but I guess you don't realize how good it is to go home until you've gone through some kind of adversity with your family."

Sheftic returned this season and picked up where he left off as a sophomore, when he averaged 10 points per game. In his first game back, he recorded a double-double: 20 points and 10 boards against Eastern Michigan. That was followed by a 22-point, six-assist contest against Albany, where he went 10 for 10 from the floor.

"Sheftic as a recruit was a star. When we got Sheftic, it was like, 'Wow, this is a tremendous recruit,'" said Brennan. "And yet he has never said, 'I need the ball more. You're not running plays for me.' He has fit in really well since he's been back."

Said Sheftic: "Feeling as much pain as I did that year, I'm so much more thankful and appreciative of having good times and

friends and family, and these games mean everything to me." •

TAYLOR COPPENRATH, PRIDE OF WEST BARNET, VERMONT

• Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I salute a key member of the first University of Vermont men's basketball team ever to participate in the NCAA Tournament. Taylor Coppenrath is the Vermont version of Larry Bird, a smalltown boy who found huge success on the basketball court.

Taylor's basketball excellence has transformed his hometown, tiny West Barnet, VT, into perhaps, on a per capita basis, our State's most basketball-crazy town, and with good reason. During his career at St. Johnsbury Academy, Taylor did not make the varsity squad until his junior year, but when he finally arrived, his presence was felt. Taylor was named Vermont's 2000 Player of the Year by USA Today and Gatorade, and Mr. Basketball by the Burlington Free Press.

When Taylor joined Coach Tom Brennan's University of Vermont Catamounts, he had an immediate impact, and was named the 2002 America East Rookie of the Year, and earned All-America East, second team honors. During this season, he was named the Kevin Roberson America East Player of the Year, an honor appropriately named for one of UVM's all time greatest players. Taylor has attracted national attention, including a mention on ESPN.com's The Radar Screen. An opposing coach, Tim Welsh of Providence College said of Taylor, "I'm glad we only have to play him once this year."

Taylor Coppenrath's story is perhaps best told by award-winning writer Sam Hemingway of the Burlington Free Press in his column of Wednesday, March 19. I ask that the column "Basketball Star Makes West Barnet Proud" be printed into the RECORD.

The article follows:

BASKETBALL STAR COPPENRATH MAKES W. BARNET PROUD

[From the Burlington Free Press]

(By Sam Hemingway)

Shortly after 3 p.m. Thursday, the quiet hamlet of West Barnet will grow even quieter.

Sharon Roy will put her small, seldom-used black-and-white television on the counter at the West Barnet General Store and see whether she can capture WCAX-TV Channel 3 on the screen.

Meg Clayton has a better plan. Her good friends, the Coppenraths, have a satellite dish, and because they'll be away in Utah, she intends to stop by and "check on their cat" for a couple of hours.

Over at the Barnet School, the afternoon in-service session for teachers should end in time for the staff to check out the cable television hook-up installed at the school this week.

The focus of all this television attention: hometown hero Taylor Coppenrath. The 6-foot, 8-inch forward will be on network television, leading the University of Vermont men's basketball team in its first-ever NCAA appearance, against the University of Arizona.